

the same as issued to freedmen. Not less than 5,000 people are cutting wood for steamers on the Mississippi river, and more people are engaged in this business than ever, but they support themselves. The total number of freedmen in the State is estimated at 346,000, of whom only 3,000 are receiving assistance from Government."

RECEPTION OF THE COLORED SOLDIERS AT HARRISBURG.

HARRISBURG, NOV. 14. This is a day that will long be remembered by the colored people of the State of Pennsylvania. In view of the large number of colored soldiers who are coming home, many of whom pass through this city, it was determined by the colored people of this city that they should have a fitting reception accorded to them. A committee was at once organized, and Mr. George E. Stevens, one of the original members of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant for bravery at Fort Wagner, was selected to carry the arrangements into execution.

All last evening the streets were fairly alive with the soldiers and their friends, but there was not the slightest confusion, and nowhere was there to be seen any insolent behavior. They remembered that all were looking upon them, and conducted themselves in a worthy manner.

But to-day was the great epoch. At nine o'clock, the procession began to form on State street, north of the Capitol, and by ten o'clock the column was in motion. T. Morris Chester, of this city, acted as chief marshal, assisted by a number of aids. They then passed through a number of streets to the residence of General Simon Cameron, on Front street. The old patriot appeared and was received with all the honors. He then passed on to the residence of the African soldiers for the compliment they have paid him, but more than all to thank them for the great service which they have done to their country in the terrible rebellion. I never doubted that the people of African descent would play a great part in this struggle, and I am proud to say that all my anticipations have been more than realized. Your services, offered in the early part of the war, were related, then the struggle became one of life and death, then the country gladly received you, and, thank God, you nobly redeemed all you promised. [Applause.]

Like all other men, you have your own way of doing things, and if you cannot do it your own way, you will have all the rights you ask for, all the rights that belong to human beings. [Applause.] I can say again that I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done for your country, and I know the country will hold you in grateful remembrance.

I cannot close without saying that there is at the head of the National Congress a great man who is able and determined to deal justly with all. I know that with his approval, no State that is in rebellion will be allowed to return to the benefits of the Union, without first having a constitutional compact, which will make all men equal before the law; which will prescribe no distinction of color on the witness-stand, and in the jury-box; which will protect the homes and the domestic relations of all men and all women. He will insist, too, on the repudiation of all debts contracted for the support of the war of the rebellion. Remember, when he was elected, there were 4,600,000 men in this country, protected by law. Now all men are made free by the law. Thank God for this! He alone has accomplished the work!

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